**Correction guidée de l’essai argumentatif « American culture »**

**Sujet :** Comment upon the following statement. « The US has become the most powerful, significant world force in terms of cultural imperialism and expansion. The areas that particularly spring to mind are Hollywood, popular music, and even literature. » Ian RALSTON, in *The Christian Science Monitor*, January 15, 2004

**S’assurer qu’on a bien compris les mots du sujet**. Cultural imperialism and expansion > attention à bien traiter l’hégémonie culturelle, et pas politique ou économique. Comme on parle de mondialisation culturelle, faire attention à choisir des exemples concrets et actuels. On peut cependant faire référence à ces autres aspects de la mondialisation.

Areas = domains. Attention à l’utilisation du terme « area », qui peut être géographique selon les phrases.

Définir Hollywood = the movie industry.

**Définir son plan détaillé : 2 idées principales/arguments par partie, un (2 grand maximum) exemple par argument.** Faites en sorte que les idées et exemples s’enchaînent, en utilisant des mots de liaison. Un exemple doit être pertinent et illustrer au mieux l’argument. Vous pouvez l’expliquer si besoin.

**Mobiliser lexique spécifique au sujet et mots de liaison.**

**Introduction**

**1)** The United States of America is **often** seen as the first world power, an economic giant and a political superpower. The USA is also perceived as a world leader in terms of culture, as American movies, music and even literature have been spreading around the globe for a few decades. **2) We can wonder to what extent** the USA is now dominating the cultural world, and what areas are the most affected. **3)** We will thus see, **first**, the overwhelming presence of the USA in various cultural areas, and **then** the emergence or resistance of other cultural forms.

**Développement**

**Nowadays**, few people would question the worldwide supremacy of the United States of America in terms of culture. **Without mentioning** the omnipresence of the USA in the political or economic domains, it is obvious nowadays that the cultural world is dominated by American films, music, and even literature. Hollywood, the heart of the American film industry, produces over 450 films a year, which are then broadcast all around the globe. **Comparatively**, France produces around 200 films, and Spain, Italy and the UK around 100. The same goes for the American music industry, as music channels on TV and on the radio are filled with American artists, no matter what the type of music. **As to** literature, the USA is the second country in terms of literature Nobel Prize laureates, and produces the main releases in categories like thrillers, fantasy and « chick lit » *(chick = poulette, poule ; littérature pour filles, du type* Le diable s’habille en Prada*).***However**, **it has to be highlighted that**, **although** pervasive, American culture does not rule out local cultures.

The domination of American culture is questioned in certain areas and places, by people who find the US supremacy worrying at least, if not threatening. People strive *(s’efforcer)* to protect their local and national cultures. **In some cases**, they claim that a diversity of cultural references is enriching, and that American forms of culture can coexist with local ones. **Others**, with more radical stances/viewpoints, prefer to resist to American films and music, in fear of being wiped out. In the movie industry, **for example**, some develop an aggressive movie industry of their own, that they also export around the globe : Bollywood, the Indian movie industry, produces an average of 800 films a year. All Indian languages are represented, so local specificities *(particularités)* are respected. Others, still in the movie industry, prefer orienting their production in a different direction : the French movie industry, **for instance**, specialised in thoughtful, delicate stories, without focusing on action or entertainment like the American superproductions. France, **again**, is the first country in terms of literature Nobel Prize laureates, and also managed to protect its musical industry, **although** more and more artists seem influenced by American ones ; but that is one of the unavoidable effects of the globalisation of culture.

**Conclusion**

**1)** It seems obvious that the American film and music industries, and even literature, are spreading all over the globe. However, although there is an unquestionable standardisation in those areas, some countries and cultures seem to resist the US hegemony, either by blocking US culture altogether, or by learning to live with it. **2)** So, even though the US is indeed « the most powerful (...) world force in terms of cultural imperialism and expansion », it does, as some may fear, a cultural dictatorship, and others can live alongside it, or even counter it. **3)** In some countries, like Iran, films are necessarily committed, and form a sort of counterpower to the imposed cultural uniformity. If culture can be seen as a way for the USA to assert their political domination, can it also be considered as a way to struggle on the home front ? (625 words)

> Il est important de maintenir un équilibre entre les deux parties du développement : ici, ma deuxième partie est plus longue, mais elle me permet de développer des arguments et exemples en miroir de ceux de la première partie. J’ai essayé de réduire le nombre d’exemples au maximum, mais il est difficile (et déconseillé) de ne pas traiter les exemples donnés dans la citation. La musique est éventuellement l’exemple qui aurait pu être supprimé ici. Il est important de bien développer et expliquer les exemples.

Je n’ai pas repris le dessin, avec le drapeau des Etats-Unis en pieuvre, mais ceux qui l’ont fait ont eu raison, c’était une bonne idée. N’oubliez pas que vous pouvez utiliser les personnages et la situation du texte comme exemples.

Par contre, ne suivez pas mon exemple en matière de nombre de mots, c’est un échec total... Le but était plutôt de vous montrer comment les arguments doivent s’enchaîner, comment utiliser les mots de liaison, etc. Bon courage !